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Fifty-third session

Organization of the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

First report of the General Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its first and second meetings, on 11 September 1998, the General Committee considered a memorandum by the Secretary-General relating to the organization of the fifty-third regular session and future sessions of the General Assembly, the adoption of the agenda and the allocation of items (A/BUR/53/1 and Add.1). A summary of the discussion will appear in the summary records of the meetings (A/BUR/53/SR.1 and 2).

2. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General in paragraph 3 of his memorandum (A/BUR/53/1), the General Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to its rules of procedure.

3. The General Committee took note of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/264 of 29 July 1994, entitled "Guidelines on the rationalization of the agenda of the General Assembly" and of the annex to resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997, entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations system". The provisions of the resolutions are reflected in the present document under the relevant headings.

4. In this connection, the Committee draws the attention of the Assembly to the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/264 (A/52/856) and resolution 51/241 (A/52/855).

II. Organization of the session

A. General Committee

5. The General Committee took note of the General Assembly decisions relevant to its work that were brought to the Committee's attention by the Secretary-General in paragraph 5 of his memorandum (A/BUR/53/1).

B. Rationalization of work

6. The General Committee took note (A/BUR/53/1, paras. 6 and 7) of the measures undertaken by the Secretary-General in pursuance of the goal of renewal and reform, in particular to recommendations 2, 3 and 7 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations[1] as reflected in his progress reports on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". The Committee also took note of resolution 48/264, entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly" and annex I thereto and resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform".

7. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, para. 8), the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 45/45 (A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1, annex VIII), which reads as follows:

> "5. The General Committee should consider, at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly, recommending that certain Main Committees should meet

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49* (A/41/49).

in sequential order, taking into account such matters as the number of meetings required for the consideration of the questions with which they are charged at that session, the organization of the work of the whole session and the problem of participation of small delegations."

8. In this connection, the Committee also draws the Assembly's attention to paragraphs 30, 31 and 36 of the annex to resolution 51/241, which read as follows:

"30. All Main Committees shall hold brief organizational sessions once the General Assembly has taken decisions on the agenda, before the commencement of the general debate. Bureaux of the Main Committees shall meet earlier to draw up recommendations on the organization and programme of work.

"31. The Main Committees shall meet in substantive session only after the end of the general debate.

...

"36. The First Committee and the Fourth Committee shall not meet simultaneously and may consider meeting in a sequential manner during the regular session of the General Assembly. This arrangement shall not apply if it affects their respective identities, programmes of work and effective consideration of their agendas."

9. The General Committee took note of the fact that measures introduced to reduce costs relating to overtime will be strictly enforced.

C. Closing date of the session

10. In accordance with the provisions of rule 2 of the rules of procedure, as the General Assembly is mandated to meet on 10 December for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the General Committee recommends to the Assembly that the session should recess on Friday, 11 December 1998.

11. The Committee also recommends to the Assembly that the First, Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth Committee), Third and Sixth Committees should complete their work by Friday, 20 November, the Second Committee by Friday, 27 November and the Fifth Committee by Friday, 4 December 1998.

D. Schedule of meetings

12. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, para. 11), the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. promptly for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees during the fifty-third session. The Committee also recommends to the Assembly that, as a cost-saving measure, every effort should be made to ensure that plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees adjourn by 6 p.m., and that no meetings be held on weekends. The Committee also recommends to the Assembly that this cost-saving measure should also apply, for the remainder of 1998, to meetings on the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations.

13. Also at the suggestion of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 12), the General Committee recommends that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should waive the requirement of the presence of at least one third of the members to declare a plenary meeting open and permit the debate to proceed and one quarter of the

members to declare a meeting of a Main Committee open and permit the debate to proceed. This recommendation is made on the understanding that such a waiver would not imply any permanent change in the provisions of rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure and that the requirement of the presence of a majority of the members for any decision to be taken would be maintained.

14. In this connection, the General Committee also recommends to the General Assembly that delegations should be reminded of the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations.

E. General debate

15. The General Committee took note of the fact that the general debate will begin on Monday, 21 September, and end on Friday, 2 October 1998, in accordance with recent practice and the relevant provisions of the annex to resolution 51/241 (paras. 19 and 20 (a) and (e)), which read as follows:

> "19. There shall continue to be only one general debate each year, beginning in the third week of September.
>
> "20. The preparation of the list of speakers for the general debate shall be based on the following principles:
>
> "(a) The general debate shall be organized over a period of two weeks so as to maximize possibilities for interministerial contacts;
>
> ...
>
> "(e) The list of speakers for each day shall be completed and no speakers will be rolled over to the next day, notwithstanding the implications for hours of work."

16. The General Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 21 of the annex to resolution 51/241, which reads as follows:

> "21. There shall be no time limits or specified themes for the general debate but the General Assembly will indicate a voluntary guideline of up to twenty minutes for each statement."

17. The General Committee endorsed the suggestion of the Secretary-General that the list of speakers in the general debate should be closed on Wednesday, 23 September, at 6 p.m., in accordance with the recommendation of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.15, annex V, para. 46).

18. The General Committee also draws the General Assembly's attention to the decision taken by the Assembly at previous sessions, namely, that the practice of expressing congratulations inside the General Assembly Hall after a speech has been delivered is prohibited. In this connection, the Committee may wish to recommend to the Assembly that speakers in the general debate, after delivering their statements, should leave the General Assembly Hall through room GA-200 located behind the podium before returning to their seats.

F. Explanations of vote, right of reply, points of order and length of statements

19. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, para. 18), the General Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401 (A/520/Rev.15, annex VI), which read as follows:

> "6. Explanations of vote should be limited to ten minutes.
>
> "7. When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.
>
> "8. Delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings are devoted to the consideration of the same item."

20. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, para. 19), the General Committee, in line with time limits for explanations of vote and right of reply, recommends to the General Assembly that points of order should be limited to five minutes.

21. With a view to streamlining the procedures of the General Assembly and as another cost-saving measure, the General Committee, in connection with the length of statements, draws the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 51/241, which reads as follows:

> "22. Outside the general debate there shall be a fifteen-minute time limit in plenary meetings and in the Main Committees."

22. In this connection, the Committee also draws the attention of the Assembly to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 51/241 (A/52/855), in particular to paragraph 23, which reads as follows:

> "23. *Paragraph 22*. Since in plenary meetings the length of statements in debates other than the general debate averages eight minutes, the General Assembly may wish to review the recommendation contained in paragraph 22."

23. Furthermore, in connection with the length of statements, with a view to streamlining the procedures of the General Assembly and as a cost-saving measure, the General Committee draws the attention of the Assembly, as it did at recent sessions, to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 22 of annex VI thereto for appropriate action in plenary meeting and the Main Committees.

G. Records of meetings

24. As at past sessions (A/BUR/53/1, para. 21), verbatim records will continue to be provided, during the fifty-third session, for the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and meetings of the First Committee, and summary records will be provided to the General Committee and the Main Committees of the Assembly. In accordance with the recommendation of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.15, annex V, para. 108 (b)), the General Committee recommends that the Assembly should maintain for the fifty-third session the practice whereby the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may obtain, on specific request, transcriptions of the debates of some of its meetings, or

portions thereof. These transcriptions, which would not be part of the official records of the Committee, would be provided as the required services became available. Furthermore, the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to paragraphs 8 and 9 of its resolution 38/32 E of 25 November 1983, which read as follows:

> "8. *Decides* that the practice of reproducing statements *in extenso* as separate documents shall be discontinued for all its subsidiary organs that are entitled to summary records;
>
> "9. *Decides further* that any exceptions to this rule may be made by the body concerned only if the statements are to serve as bases for discussion and if, after hearing a statement of the relevant financial implications, the body decides that one or more statements *in extenso* may be included in the summary record, or reproduced as separate documents or as annexes to authorized documents."

In this connection, the General Committee also recommends to the Assembly that the practice not to reproduce *in extenso* statements made in a Main Committee should be maintained for the fifty-third session.

H. Concluding statements

25. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, para. 23), the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 17 of its decision 34/401 (A/520/Rev.15, annex VI), which reads as follows:

> "17. To save time at the end of the session, the practice of making concluding statements in the General Assembly and its Main Committees should be dispensed with except for statements by the presiding officers."

I. Resolutions

26. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, para. 24), the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401, which reads as follows:

> "32. Whenever possible, resolutions requesting the discussion of a question at a subsequent session should not call for the inclusion of a separate new item and such discussion should be held under the item under which the resolution was adopted."

27. Furthermore, at the suggestion of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 25), the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, which reads as follows:

> "(f) Efforts should be made to reduce the number of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. Resolutions should request reports of the Secretary-General only in cases where that would be indispensable for facilitating the implementation of these resolutions or the continued examination of the question."

28. In this connection, the General Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/264, which reads as follows:

"5. *Encourages* Member States to exercise restraint in making proposals requesting new reports of the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the desirability of reducing the number of such reports."

29. The General Committee also draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraphs 1 and 10 of the annex to resolution 45/45 (A/520/Rev.15/Amend.1, annex VIII).

J. Documentation

30. On the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, para. 28), the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401, which reads as follows:

"28. The General Assembly, including its Main Committees, should merely take note of those reports of the Secretary-General or subsidiary organs which do not require a decision by the Assembly and should neither debate nor adopt resolutions on them, unless specifically requested to do so by the Secretary-General or the organ concerned."

31. The General Committee also draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/264, which reads as follows:

"6. *Emphasizes* that reports requested of the Secretary-General should be made available in all official languages in a timely manner in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the annexes thereto with a view to enabling delegations to consider the substance of such reports more thoroughly in advance of meetings."

The Committee also draws the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 4 of resolution 50/206 C of 23 December 1995, in which the Assembly once again requested the Secretary-General "to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents, simultaneously in each of the six official languages of the United Nations".

32. The General Committee further draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 32 of resolution 51/241, which reads as follows:

"32. The number of reports requested shall be rationalized where possible so as to permit more focused consideration of issues. All bodies shall exercise restraint in making proposals containing requests for new reports and should consider integrating, biennializing or triennializing the presentation of reports, bearing in mind paragraphs 6 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 50/206 C of 23 December 1995."

K. Questions related to the programme budget

33. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, paras. 31 and 32), who referred to rule 153 of the rules of procedure, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 12 and 13 of its decision 34/401, which read as follows:

"12. It is imperative that Main Committees should allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimate of expenditures by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth

Committee and that they should take this requirement into account when they adopt their programme of work;

"13. Furthermore:

"(a) A mandatory deadline, not later than 1 December, should be established for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications;

"(b) The Fifth Committee should, as a general practice, consider accepting without debate the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial implications of draft resolutions up to a prescribed limit, namely, $25,000 on any one item;

"(c) Firm deadlines should be set for the early submission of the reports of subsidiary organs which require consideration by the Fifth Committee;

"(d) A minimum period of forty-eight hours should be allowed between the submission and the voting of a proposal involving expenditure in order to allow the Secretary-General to prepare and present the related statement of administrative and financial implications."

In this connection, see also paragraph 43.

34. The General Committee also draws the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 6 of its resolution 35/10 A of 3 November 1980, which reads as follows:

"6. *Decides* that all proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the General Assembly shall be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications are being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly."

35. Also at the suggestion of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 31), the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to regulation 4.9 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (resolution 37/234, annex), which reads as follows:

"*Regulation 4.9*. No Council, Commission or other competent body shall take a decision involving either a change in the programme budget approved by the General Assembly or the possible requirement of expenditure unless it has received and taken account of a report from the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the proposal."

36. In connection with subparagraph 13 (d) of decision 34/401 quoted above, the General Committee wishes to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the observations of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, paras. 33 and 34) regarding the fact that, depending on the type and complexity of proposals involving changes in the work programme and additional expenditures, the preparation of a statement of programme budget implications by the Secretary-General may take a few days. In addition, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee need adequate time to review the programme budget implications of a draft resolution before the latter can be acted on by the Assembly. The Secretary-General thus considers it desirable that Member States submit proposals involving statements of programme budget implications sufficiently in advance to avoid the cancellation of meetings and the postponement of consideration of items.

L. Observances and commemorative meetings

37. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, para. 35), the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that, allowing for the necessary flexibility and with the exception of the anniversary of the United Nations, the Assembly should adopt the following format for commemorative meetings: statements by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, statements by the chairmen of the five regional groups and by the representative of the host country. The Committee also recommends that consideration be given to limiting each statement to 15 minutes.

38. The General Committee further recommends, at the suggestion of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 36), that observances and commemorative meetings should take place, as far as possible, immediately following the general debate. The advantage of such a procedure is that it may facilitate the participation of dignitaries attending the general debate. This procedure would also allow advance planning of the work of the General Assembly.

M. Special conferences

39. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, para. 37), the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to recommendation 6 of the Committee on Conferences, adopted by the Assembly in paragraph (b) of its decision 34/405, which reads as follows:

> "(b) The Committee, taking into account difficulties encountered in ensuring adequate preparation of meetings, including timely distribution of documentation, as well as the ability of Member States to participate fully, recommends that the General Assembly should instruct the Main Committees to review the number of special conferences of the United Nations already proposed and scheduled in their respective fields of activity prior to deciding upon the scheduling of new and additional special conferences, thus bearing in mind the relevant portions of General Assembly resolution 33/55."

The General Committee also draws the Assembly's attention to recommendation 2(d) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, which reads as follows:

> "Until 1978, a number of resolutions had requested that only one major conference be scheduled annually. The decision of the General Assembly that no more than five special conferences should take place in a given year and that no more than one special conference should be convened at the same time should be strictly implemented."

40. Furthermore, at the suggestion of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 38), the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to the relevant provisions of recommendation 4 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts which reads as follows:

> "The existing principle that United Nations bodies should meet at their respective established headquarters, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, should be strictly enforced. Whenever the Assembly accepts an invitation from the Government of a Member State to hold a conference or meeting away from established headquarters, the additional cost should be borne in full by that Government. The methods of budgeting these costs should be improved so as to ensure that all additional costs are accounted for."

N. Meetings of subsidiary organs

41. The General Committee, in the light of recommendations submitted by the Committee on Conferences (A/53/298), recommends to the General Assembly, on the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, that the following subsidiary organs should be authorized to meet during the main part of the fifty-third session:

(a) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

(b) Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

III. Observations on the organization of future sessions of the General Assembly

42. The General Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 17 of the annex to resolution 51/241 which states, *inter alia*, that the "plenary meetings of the General Assembly shall be formally opened every year on the first Tuesday following 1 September". In this connection, the Committee may wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 51/241 (A/52/855), in particular to paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof, which read:

> "16. Rule 1 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly states that the General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the third Tuesday in September. Paragraph 17 of the annex to the resolution calls, *inter alia*, for the regular sessions of the General Assembly to now commence on the first Tuesday following 1 September. Rule 1 of the rules of procedure would need to be amended.
>
> "17. In addition, in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure, the General Assembly has, at the beginning of each session, fixed a closing date for the session. In recent years, the closing date has been the Monday before the opening of the next session. Were the General Assembly to retain this practice, the closing date would consistently fall on an official holiday of the Organization, for which financial and other implications may need to be considered. The General Assembly may wish to decide on a closing date ... and for future sessions, that will fall on a working day ...".

43. On 4 June 1998, the General Assembly adopted resolution 52/232 on the strengthening of the United Nations system. In paragraph 1, the Assembly decided, as an interim measure, "that the fifty-second session of the General Assembly shall close on Tuesday, 8 September 1998, and that the fifty-third session of the General Assembly shall open on Wednesday, 9 September 1998". The General Committee recommends that the Assembly address the question of the opening and closing dates of future regular sessions. In this connection, taking into account the opening date of the regular sessions, the Committee may also wish to recommend to the Assembly a review of the question of the mandatory deadline for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with programme budget implications.

IV. Adoption of the agenda

44. The General Committee considered the draft agenda of the fifty-third session submitted by the Secretary-General in his memorandum (A/BUR/53/1 and Add.1). All the items contained in the draft agenda formed part of the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda of the fifty-third session (A/53/150);

(b) Supplementary list (A/53/200);

(c) Request for the inclusion of an additional item (A/53/232).

45. The General Committee took note of paragraphs 4 and 5 (a) and (c) of annex I to resolution 48/264, which read as follows:

> "4. There shall be periodic reviews of the agenda, taking into account the views of concerned Member States, in order to ascertain whether it is possible to delete any item on which no resolution or decision has been adopted for a period of time.
>
> "5. The Main Committees should be encouraged to continue with the review of their respective agendas, taking into account, *inter alia*, the following:
>
> "(a) Agenda items concerning issues of closely related substance could be merged within a single agenda title or be incorporated as sub-items where this is possible without loss of focus on the items/sub-items concerned;
>
> "...
>
> "(c) Biennialization and triennialization of items on the agenda of the Main Committees could be considered in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly."

In this connection, the attention of the General Committee was drawn to paragraphs 23 to 26 of the annex to resolution 51/241. In addition, bearing in mind the extremely heavy workload of the General Assembly and the need to make the most effective use of scarce resources, the General Committee took note of the suggestion by the Secretary-General to consider deferring to a later session items for which decisions or action are not required at the main part of the present session.

46. Concerning *item 62* of the draft agenda (The situation in Burundi), the General Committee decided to recommend the deletion of the item from the agenda of the fifty-third session.

47. With regard to *item 89* of the draft agenda (Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination), the General Committee decided to recommend that the item should read: "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories".

48. With regard to *item 92* of the draft agenda (Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India), the General Committee decided to recommend that the consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-fourth session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

49. In connection with *item 93* of the draft agenda (Question of East Timor), the General Committee decided to recommend that the consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-fourth session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

50. With regard to *item 160* of the draft agenda (Bethlehem 2000), the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion.

51. In connection with *item 161* of the draft agenda (World Solar Programme 1996–2005), the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion.

52. With regard to *item 162* of the draft agenda (Observer status for the Association of Caribbean States in the General Assembly), the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion.

53. In connection with *item 165* of the draft agenda (Observer status for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in the General Assembly), the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion.

54. With regard to *item 166* of the draft agenda (Need to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 owing to the fundamental change in the international situation and to the coexistence of two Governments across the Taiwan Strait), the General Committee decided not to recommend its inclusion.

55. In connection with *item 167* of the draft agenda (Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone), the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion.

56. With regard to *item 168* of the draft agenda (Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide), the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion as a sub-item of item 46 of the draft agenda (Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

57. In connection with *item 169* of the draft agenda (Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa), the General Committee decided to recommend its inclusion.

58. Taking into account paragraphs 44 to 57 above, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following agenda:[2]

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Ukraine (P.1).
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation (P.2).
3. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (P.3):
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly (P.4).
5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees (P.5).
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (P.6).
7. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (P.7).
8. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee (P.8).
9. General debate (P.9).

[2] Abbreviations used in the present document:
(P.): item on the provisional agenda (A/53/150);
(S.): item on the supplementary list (A/53/200);
(A.): additional item (A/53/231).

10. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (P.10).

11. Report of the Security Council (P.11).

12. Report of the Economic and Social Council (P.12).

13. Report of the International Court of Justice (P.13).

14. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (P.14).

15. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (P.15):

    (a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;

    (b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council.

16. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections (P.16):

    (a) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

    (b) Election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

17. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (P.17):

    (a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

    (b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

    (c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

    (d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

    (e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;

    (f) International Civil Service Commission:

        (i) Appointment of members of the Commission;

        (ii) Designation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission;

    (g) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;

    (h) Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit;

    (i) Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

    (j) Appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

18. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (P.18).

19. Admission of new Members to the United Nations (P.19).

20. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (P.20):

    (a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

    (b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;

    (c) Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan;

    (d) Assistance to the Palestinian people.

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (P.21).

22. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (P.22).

23. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (P.23).

24. Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review (P.24).

25. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (P.25).

26. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (P.26).

27. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (P.27).

28. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (P.28).

29. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (P.29).

30. United Nations reform: measures and proposals (P.30).

31. Culture of peace (P.31).

32. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (P.32).

33. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies (P.33).

34. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (P.34).

35. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (P.35).

36. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (P.36).

37. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (P.37).

38. Oceans and the law of the sea (P.38):

    (a) Law of the sea;

    (b) Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments.

39. Question of Palestine (P.39).

40. The situation in the Middle East (P.40).

41. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (P.41).

42. Assistance in mine clearance (P.42).

43. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (P.43).

44. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (P.44).

45. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (P.45).

46. Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (P.46):[3]

    (a) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

    (b) Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (S.2).

47. Election of the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (P.47).

48. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (P.48).

49. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (P.49).

50. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (P.50).

51. Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion (P.51).

52. Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986 (P.52).

53. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (P.53).

54. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait (P.54).

55. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations (P.55).

56. Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development (P.56).

57. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte (P.57).

58. Strengthening of the United Nations system (P.58).

59. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters (P.59).

60. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (P.60).

61. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (P.61).

62. Question of Cyprus (P.63).

[3] See para. 56

63. Role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields (P.64).

64. Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States (P.65).

65. Reduction of military budgets (P.66):

(a) Reduction of military budgets;

(b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.

66. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (P.67).

67. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (P.68).

68. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (P.69).

69. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (P.70).

70. Prevention of an arms race in outer space (P.71).

71. General and complete disarmament (P.72):

(a) Notification of nuclear tests;

(b) Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof: report of the Secretary-General;

(c) Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol;

(d) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;

(e) Transparency in armaments;

(f) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them;

(g) Relationship between disarmament and development;

(h) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;

(i) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(j) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;

(k) Contributions towards banning anti-personnel landmines;

(l) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;

(m) Small arms;

(n) Nuclear disarmament;

(o) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

(p) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(q) Regional disarmament;

(r) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

(s) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

(t) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

72. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly (P.73):

(a) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

(b) United Nations disarmament fellowship training and advisory services;

(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(e) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons.

73. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session (P.74):

(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

(c) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

(d) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

74. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (P.75).

75. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (P.76).

76. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (P.77).

77. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (P.78).

78. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (P.79).

79. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (P.80).

80. Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee (P.81).

81. Effects of atomic radiation (P.82).

82. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (P.83).

83. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (P.84).

84. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (P.85).

85. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (P.86).

86. Questions relating to information (P.87).

87. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (P.88).

88. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (P.89).[4]

89. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (P.90).

90. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (P.91).

91. Macroeconomic policy questions (P.94):

(a) Trade and development;

(b) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries;

(c) Commodities;

(d) External debt crisis and development.

92. Sectoral policy questions (P.95):

(a) Business and development;

(b) Industrial development cooperation.

93. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (P.96):

(a) Implementation of and follow-up to major consensus agreements on development:

(i) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries;

(ii) Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

(b) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;

(c) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(d) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

(e) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(g) Cultural development.

94. Environment and sustainable development (P.97):

[4] See para. 47.

(a) Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(c) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

95. Operational activities for development (P.98).

96. Training and research (P.99):

(a) United Nations University;

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

97. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (P.100).

98. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) (P.101).

99. Commemorative meeting of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (P.102).

100. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (P.103).

101. Crime prevention and criminal justice (P.104).

102. International drug control (P.105).

103. Advancement of women (P.106).

104. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (P.107).

105. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (P.108).

106. Promotion and protection of the rights of children (P.109).

107. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (P.110).

108. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (P.111).

109. Right of peoples to self-determination (P.112).

110. Human rights questions (P.113):

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

111. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (P.114):

(a) United Nations;

(b) United Nations Development Programme;

(c) United Nations Children's Fund;

(d) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

(e) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

(f) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(g) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(h) United Nations Population Fund;

(i) United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

(j) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

(k) United Nations Office for Project Services.

112. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (P.115).

113. Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 (P.116).

114. Programme planning (P.117).

115. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (P.118).

116. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (P.119).

117. Pattern of conferences (P.120).

118. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (P.121).

119. Human resources management (P.122).

120. United Nations common system (P.123).

121. United Nations pension system (P.124).

122. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (P.125):

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

123. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (P.126).

124. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (P.127):

(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

(b) Other activities.

125. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (P.128).

126. Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (P.129).

127. Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (P.130).

128. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (P.131).

129. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (P.132).

130. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (P.133).

131. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (P.134).

132. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (P.135).

133. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (P.136).

134. Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (P.137).

135. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (P.138).

136. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (P.139).

137. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (P.140).

138. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (P.141).

139. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (P.142).

140. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (P.143).

141. Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (P.144).

142. Financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (P.145).

143. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (P.146):

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations;

(b) Relocation of Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232.

144. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (P.147 (a)).

145. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B (P.147 (b)).

146. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts (P.148).

147. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives (P.149).

148. Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property (P.150).

149. United Nations Decade of International Law (P.151):

(a) United Nations Decade of International Law;

(b) Progress in the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law;

(c) Draft guiding principles for international negotiations.

150. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session (P.152).

151. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-first session (P.153).

152. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (P.154).

153. Establishment of an international criminal court (P.155).

154. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (P.156).

155. Measures to eliminate international terrorism (P.157).

156. Review of the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations (P.158).

157. Bethlehem 2000 (P.159).[5]

158. World Solar Programme 1996–2005 (P.160).[6]

159. Observer status for the Association of Caribbean States in the General Assembly (P.161).[7]

160. Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers (P.162).

161. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (P.163).

162. Observer status for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in the General Assembly (P.164).[8]

163. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (S.1).[9]

164. Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A.1).[10]

165. Joint Inspection Unit (decision 52/467 C of 8 September 1998).

166. Election of judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (decision 52/501 of 8 September 1998).

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[5] See para. 50.

[6] See para. 51.

[7] See para. 52.

[8] See para. 53.

[9] See para. 55.

[10] See para. 57.

V. Allocation of items

59. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1, para. 48), the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 4 of its decision 34/401 (A/520/Rev.15, annex VI), which reads as follows:

> "4. Substantive items should normally be discussed initially in a Main Committee and, therefore, items previously allocated to plenary meetings should henceforth be referred to a Main Committee unless there are compelling circumstances requiring their continued consideration in plenary meeting."

The General Committee also draws the attention of the Assembly to paragraph 3 of annex I to resolution 48/264 and to the relevant paragraphs of resolutions 39/88 B and 45/45 (A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1, annexes VII and VIII). Paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 39/88 B reads as follows:

> "5. The Chairmen of the Main Committees should take the initiative, in the light of past experience, to propose the grouping of similar or related items and the holding of a single general debate on them."

Paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 45/45 reads as follows:

> "6. In making recommendations as to how agenda items should be allocated to the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly, the General Committee should ensure the best use of the expertise of the Committees."

In this connection, the General Committee also draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 2 and 5 (b) and (d) of annex I to resolution 48/264, which read as follows:

> "2. Agenda items which are of a nature that relates to more than one Main Committee or which do not come within the purview of any Main Committee should be considered by the General Assembly in plenary meeting, taking into account the recommendations of the General Committee.
>
> "...
>
> "5. The Main Committees should be encouraged to continue with the review of their respective agendas, taking into account, *inter alia*, the following:
>
> "...
>
> "(b) Items that cover related matters or issues could be considered in agreed clusters;
>
> "...
>
> "(d) The existing broad division of work among the Main Committees should be maintained."

60. Taking into account the recommendations in section IV above regarding the inclusion of items in the agenda, the General Committee approved the allocation of items contained in paragraph 61 of the Secretary-General's memorandum (A/BUR/53/1 and Add.1) with the following modifications:

(a) *Plenary meetings*

(i) *Item 10* (Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that, as was done at the last session, it should hear a brief presentation by the

Secretary-General on his annual report (A/53/1) as the first item in the morning prior to the opening of the general debate on Monday, 21 September.

(ii) *Item 18* (Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples)

The General Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should refer to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) chapters of the report of the Special Committee (A/53/23) relating to specific Territories so that the Assembly might deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole.

(iii) *Item 46 (a)* (Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and *item 110 (b)* (Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that, in the light of decision 52/424 of 12 December 1997, the ceremony for the awarding of prizes in the field of human rights in 1998 should be held on Thursday, 10 December 1998, on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in plenary meeting.

(iv) *Item 49* (Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas))

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.

(v) *Item 62* (Question of Cyprus)

The General Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly allocate the item at an appropriate time during the session.

(vi) *Item 99* (Commemorative meeting of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that, in the light of paragraph 9 of resolution 52/205 of 18 December 1997, the commemorative meeting to mark the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should be held on Wednesday, 7 October 1998, in the morning.

(vii) *Item 157* (Bethlehem 2000)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

(viii) *Item 158* (World Solar Programme 1996–2005)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

(ix) *Item 159* (Observer status for the Association of Caribbean States in the General Assembly)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

(x) *Item 162* (Observer status for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in the General Assembly)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

(xi) *Item 164* (Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

(b) *First Committee*

Item 71 (General and complete disarmament)

The General Committee decided to recommend that the relevant paragraphs of the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/53/286), which is to be considered directly in plenary meeting under item 14, should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 71.

(c) *Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)*

Item 85 (Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that, in the light of paragraph 2 of resolution 52/69 of 10 December 1997, the commemorative meeting to mark the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping should be held on Tuesday, 6 October 1998, in the morning.

(d) *Second Committee*

Item 93 (d) (Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that, in the light of resolution 50/122 of 20 December 1997 and decision 52/480 of 4 June 1998, the high-level dialogue on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications should be held on Thursday, 17 September and Friday, 18 September 1998.

(e) *Third Committee*

Item 103 (Advancement of women)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 95 (Operational activities for development).

(f) *Fifth Committee*

(i) *Item 163* (Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

(ii) *Item 165* (Joint Inspection Unit)

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject matters assigned to other Main Committees would be also referred to those Committees.

61. Taking into account paragraphs 59 and 60 above, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following allocation of items:[11]

[11] The numbering in parentheses used in the allocation of items (D.) follows the draft agenda in section IV (para. 58).

Plenary meetings

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Ukraine (D.1).
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation (D.2).
3. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (D.3):
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly (D.4).
5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees (D.5).
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (D.6).
7. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (D.7).
8. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee (D.8).
9. General debate (D.9).
10. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (D.10).[12]
11. Report of the Security Council (D.11).
12. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I to VII and VIII (sections A to C), IX and X] (D.12).[13]
13. Report of the International Court of Justice (D.13).
14. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (D.14).[14]
15. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (D.15):
   (a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;
   (b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council.
16. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections (D.16):
   (a) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;
   (b) Election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
17. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (D.17):[15]
   (g) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;
   (h) Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit;

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[12] See para. 60 (a) (i).

[13] The chapters of the report listed below would be referred also to the Second, Third and Fifth Committees, as follows:

(a)	Chapters I, VIII (section C) and X	Second, Third and Fifth Committees
(b)	Chapters II and IV	Second Committee
(c)	Chapters III, V and VIII (section A)	Second and Third Committees
(d)	Chapter VI	Third Committee
(e)	Chapter VIII (section B)	Second and Fifth Committees

[14] See para. 60 (b).

[15] For sub-items (a) to (f), see "Fifth Committee", item 40.

(i) Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(j) Appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

18. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (D.18).[16]

19. Admission of new Members to the United Nations (D.19).

20. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (D.20):

(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;[3]

(c) Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan;

(d) Assistance to the Palestinian people.

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (D.21).

22. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (D.22).

23. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (D.23).

24. Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review (D.24).

25. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (D.25).

26. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (D.26).

27. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (D.27).

28. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (D.28).

29. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (D.29).

30. United Nations reform: measures and proposals (D.30).

31. Culture of peace (D.31).

32. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (D.32).

33. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies (D.33).

34. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (D.34).

35. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (D.35).

[16] See para. 60 (a) (ii).

36. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (D.36).

37. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (D.37).

38. Oceans and the law of the sea (D.38):

    (a) Law of the sea;

    (b) Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments.

39. Question of Palestine (D.39).

40. The situation in the Middle East (D.40).

41. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (D.41).

42. Assistance in mine clearance (D.42).

43. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (D.43).

44. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (D.44).

45. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (D.45).

46. Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (D.46):[17]

    (a) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

    (b) Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

47. Election of the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (D.47).

48. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (D.48).

49. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (D.49).[18]

50. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (D.50).

51. Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion (D.51).

52. Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's

[17] See para. 60 (a) (iii).

[18] See para. 60 (a) (iv).

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986 (D.52).

53. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (D.53).

54. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait (D.54).

55. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations (D.55).

56. Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development (D.56).

57. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte (D.57).

58. Strengthening of the United Nations system (D.58).

59. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters (D.59).

60. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (D.60).

61. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (D.61).

62. Commemorative meeting of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (D.99).[19]

63. Bethlehem 2000 (D.157).[20]

64. World Solar Programme 1996–2005 (D.158).[21]

65. Observer status for the Association of Caribbean States in the General Assembly (D.159).[22]

66. Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers (D.160).

67. Observer status for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in the General Assembly (D.162).[23]

68. Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (D.164).[24]

69. Election of judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (D.166).

70. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (D.85).[25]

71. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (D.93):

    (d) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership.[26]

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[19] See para. 60 (a) (vi).

[20] See para. 60 (a) (vii).

[21] See para. 60 (a) (viii).

[22] See para. 60 (a) (ix).

[23] See para. 60 (a) (x).

[24] See para. 60 (a) (xi).

[25] See para. 60 (c).

[26] See para. 60 (d).

First Committee

1. Role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields (D.63).
2. Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States (D.64).
3. Reduction of military budgets (D.65):
   (a) Reduction of military budgets;
   (b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.
4. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (D.66).
5. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (D.67).
6. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (D.68).
7. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (D.69).
8. Prevention of an arms race in outer space (D.70).
9. General and complete disarmament (D.71):[27]
   (a) Notification of nuclear tests;
   (b) Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof: report of the Secretary-General;
   (c) Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol;
   (d) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;
   (e) Transparency in armaments;
   (f) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them;
   (g) Relationship between disarmament and development;
   (h) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;
   (i) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;
   (j) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;
   (k) Contributions towards banning anti-personnel landmines;
   (l) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;
   (m) Small arms;
   (n) Nuclear disarmament;
   (o) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

[27] See para. 60 (b).

(p) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(q) Regional disarmament;

(r) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

(s) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

(t) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

10. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly (D.72):

(a) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

(b) United Nations disarmament fellowship training and advisory services;

(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(e) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons.

11. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session (D.73):

(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

(c) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

(d) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

12. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (D.74).

13. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (D.75).

14. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (D.76).

15. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (D.77).

16. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (D.78).

17. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (D.79).

18. Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee (D.80).

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

1. Effects of atomic radiation (D.81).
2. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (D.82).
3. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (D.83).
4. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (D.84).
5. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (D.85).[28]
6. Questions relating to information (D.86).
7. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (D.87).
8. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (D.88).[29]
9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (D.89).
10. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapter VIII (section D)] (D.12).
11. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (D.90).
12. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (D.18).[30]
13. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (D.49).[31]

[28] See para. 60 (c).
[29] See para. 47.
[30] See para. 60 (a) (ii).
[31] See para. 60 (a) (iv).

Second Committee

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I to V, VIII (sections A to C and E to H) and X] (D.12).[32]

2. Macroeconomic policy questions (D.91):

   (a) Trade and development;

   (b) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries;

   (c) Commodities;

   (d) External debt crisis and development.

3. Sectoral policy questions (D.92):

   (a) Business and development;

   (b) Industrial development cooperation.

4. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (D.93):

   (a) Implementation of and follow-up to major consensus agreements on development:

      (i) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries;

      (ii) Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

   (b) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;

   (c) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

   (d) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;[33]

   (e) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

   (f) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

   (g) Cultural development.

5. Environment and sustainable development (D.94):

   (a) Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the

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[32] The chapters of the report listed below would be referred also to plenary meetings and to the Third and Fifth Committees, as follows:

(a)	Chapters I, VIII (section C) and X	Plenary meetings and Third and Fifth Committees
(b)	Chapters II and IV	Plenary meetings
(c)	Chapters III, V and VIII (section A)	Plenary meetings and Third Committee
(d)	Chapter VIII (section B)	Plenary meetings and Fifth Committee

[33] See para. 60 (d).

nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(c) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

6. Operational activities for development (D.95).[34]

7. Training and research (D.96):

(a) United Nations University;

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

8. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (D.97).

9. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) (D.98).

[34] See para. 60 (e).

Third Committee

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I, III, V, VI, VIII (sections A, C and I) and X] (D.12).[35]
2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (D.100).
3. Crime prevention and criminal justice (D.101).
4. International drug control (D.102).
5. Advancement of women (D.103).[36]
6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (D.104).
7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (D.105).
8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children (D.106).
9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (D.107).
10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (D.108).
11. Right of peoples to self-determination (D.109).
12. Human rights questions (D.110):
    (a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
    (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;[37]
    (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
    (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
    (e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

[35] The chapters of the report listed below would be referred also to plenary meetings and to the Second and Fifth Committees, as follows:

(a)	Chapters I, VIII (section C) and X	Plenary meetings and Second and Fifth Committees
(b)	Chapters III, V and VIII (section A)	Plenary meetings and Second Committee
(c)	Chapter VI	Plenary meetings

[36] See para. 60 (e).

[37] See para. 60 (a) (iii).

Fifth Committee

1. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (D.111):
   (a) United Nations;
   (b) United Nations Development Programme;
   (c) United Nations Children's Fund;
   (d) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
   (e) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
   (f) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
   (g) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;
   (h) United Nations Population Fund;
   (i) United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
   (j) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;
   (k) United Nations Office for Project Services.
2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (D.112).
3. Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 (D.113).
4. Programme planning (D.114).
5. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (D.115).
6. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (D.116).
7. Pattern of conferences (D.117).
8. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (D.118).
9. Human resources management (D.119).
10. United Nations common system (D.120).
11. United Nations pension system (D.121).
12. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (D.122):
    (a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;
    (b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.
13. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (D.123).
14. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (D.124):
    (a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;
    (b) Other activities.

15. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (D.125).

16. Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (D.126).

17. Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (D.127).

18. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (D.128).

19. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (D.129).

20. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (D.130).

21. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (D.131).

22. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (D.132).

23. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (D.133).

24. Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (D.134).

25. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (D.135).

26. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (D.136).

27. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (D.137).

28. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (D.138).

29. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (D.139).

30. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (D.140).

31. Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (D.141).

32. Financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (D.142).

33. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (D.143):

    (a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations;

    (b) Relocation of Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232.

34. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (D.144).

35. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B (D.145).

36. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (D.161).

37. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (D.163).[38]

38. Joint Inspection Unit (D.165).[39]

39. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I, VIII (sections B and C) and X] (D.12).[40]

40. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (D.17):[41]

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

(c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

(d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

(e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;

(f) International Civil Service Commission:

(i) Appointment of members of the Commission;

(ii) Designation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

[38] See para. 60 (f) (i).

[39] See para. 60 (f) (ii).

[40] The chapters of the report listed below would be referred also to plenary meetings and to the Second and Third Committees, as follows:

(a) Chapters I, VIII (section C) and X ..... Plenary meetings, Second and Third Committees

(b) Chapter VIII (section B) ..... Plenary meetings and Second Committee

[41] For sub-items (g) to (j), see "Plenary meetings", item 17.

Sixth Committee

1. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts (D.146).

2. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives (D.147).

3. Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property (D.148).

4. United Nations Decade of International Law (D.149):

   (a) United Nations Decade of International Law;

   (b) Progress in the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law;

   (c) Draft guiding principles for international negotiations.

5. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session (D.150).

6. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-first session (D.151).

7. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (D.152).

8. Establishment of an international criminal court (D.153).

9. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (D.154).

10. Measures to eliminate international terrorism (D.155).

11. Review of the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations (D.156).

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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session

Agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly

Adopted by the General Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998

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1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Ukraine.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly.
5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees.
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.
7. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations.
8. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee.
9. General debate.
10. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.
11. Report of the Security Council.
12. Report of the Economic and Social Council.
13. Report of the International Court of Justice.
14. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
15. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:
   (a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;
   (b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council.
16. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:
   (a) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;
   (b) Election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
17. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:
   (a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
   (b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;
   (c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;
   (d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;
   (e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;
   (f) International Civil Service Commission:
      (i) Appointment of members of the Commission;
      (ii) Designation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission;
   (g) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;
   (h) Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit;
   (i) Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
   (j) Appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

18. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

19. Admission of new Members to the United Nations.

20. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance:

    (a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

    (b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;

    (c) Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan;

    (d) Assistance to the Palestinian people.

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

22. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee.

23. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community.

24. Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review.

25. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System.

26. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

27. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

28. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

29. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

30. United Nations reform: measures and proposals.

31. Culture of peace.

32. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

33. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies.

34. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization.

35. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

36. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

37. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.

38. Oceans and the law of the sea:

    (a) Law of the sea;

    (b) Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments.

39. Question of Palestine.

40. The situation in the Middle East.

41. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

42. Assistance in mine clearance.

43. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.

44. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development.

45. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

46. Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

    (a) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

    (b) Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

47. Election of the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

48. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

49. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

50. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

51. Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion.

52. Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986.

53. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security.

54. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait.

55. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations.

56. Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development.

57. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte.

58. Strengthening of the United Nations system.

59. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.

60. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

61. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

62. Question of Cyprus.

63. Role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields.

64. Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States.

65. Reduction of military budgets:

    (a) Reduction of military budgets;

    (b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.

66. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament.

67. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

68. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia.

69. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

70. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

71. General and complete disarmament:

    (a) Notification of nuclear tests;

    (b) Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof: report of the Secretary-General;

    (c) Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol;

    (d) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;

    (e) Transparency in armaments;

    (f) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them;

    (g) Relationship between disarmament and development;

    (h) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;

    (i) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

    (j) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;

    (k) Contributions towards banning anti-personnel landmines;

    (l) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;

(m) Small arms;

(n) Nuclear disarmament;

(o) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

(p) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(q) Regional disarmament;

(r) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

(s) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

(t) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

72. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:

(a) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

(b) United Nations disarmament fellowship training and advisory services;

(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(e) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons.

73. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

(c) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

(d) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

74. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

75. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

76. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

77. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

78. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

79. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

80. Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee.

81. Effects of atomic radiation.

82. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

83. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East .

84. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

85. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

86. Questions relating to information.

87. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

88. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

89. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

90. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

91. Macroeconomic policy questions:

(a) Trade and development;

(b) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries;

(c) Commodities;

(d) External debt crisis and development.

92. Sectoral policy questions:

(a) Business and development;

(b) Industrial development cooperation.

93. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation:

(a) Implementation of and follow-up to major consensus agreements on development:

(i) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries;

(ii) Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

(b) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;

(c) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(d) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

(e) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(g) Cultural development.

94. Environment and sustainable development:

(a) Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(c) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

95. Operational activities for development.

96. Training and research:

(a) United Nations University;

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

97. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

98. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006).

99. Commemorative meeting of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

100. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family.

101. Crime prevention and criminal justice.

102. International drug control.

103. Advancement of women.

104. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

105. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions.

106. Promotion and protection of the rights of children.

107. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

108. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

109. Right of peoples to self-determination.

110. Human rights questions:

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

111. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

(a) United Nations;

(b) United Nations Development Programme;

(c) United Nations Children's Fund;

(d) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

(e) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

(f) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(g) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(h) United Nations Population Fund;

(i) United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

(j) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

(k) United Nations Office for Project Services.

112. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

113. Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

114. Programme planning.

115. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations.

116. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

117. Pattern of conferences.

118. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations.

119. Human resources management.

120. United Nations common system.

121. United Nations pension system.

122. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East:

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

123. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola.

124. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991):

(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

(b) Other activities.

125. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

126. Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

127. Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters.

128. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II.

129. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique.

130. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

131. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.

132. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti.

133. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia.

134. Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda.

135. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

136. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan.

137. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

138. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

139. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group.

140. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force.

141. Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti.

142. Financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala.

143. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations:

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations;

(b) Relocation of Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232.

144. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

145. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B.

146. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

147. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

148. Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property.

149. United Nations Decade of International Law:

(a) United Nations Decade of International Law;

(b) Progress in the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law;

(c) Draft guiding principles for international negotiations.

150. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session.

151. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-first session.

152. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

153. Establishment of an international criminal court.

154. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

155. Measures to eliminate international terrorism.

156. Review of the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations.

157. Bethlehem 2000.

158. World Solar Programme 1996–2005.

159. Observer status for the Association of Caribbean States in the General Assembly .

160. Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers.

161. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic.

162. Observer status for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in the General Assembly.

163. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone.

164. Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

165. Joint Inspection Unit.

166. Election of judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

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General Assembly

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Adopted by the General Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998

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Plenary meetings

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Ukraine (item 1).
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation (item 2).
3. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (item 3):
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly (item 4).
5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees (item 5).
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (item 6).
7. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (item 7).
8. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee (item 8).
9. General debate (item 9).
10. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (item 10).
11. Report of the Security Council (item 11).
12. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I to VII and VIII (sections A to C), IX and X] (item 12).[1]
13. Report of the International Court of Justice (item 13).
14. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 14).[2]
15. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (item 15):
   (a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;
   (b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council.
16. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections (item 16):
   (a) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;
   (b) Election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
17. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (item 17):[3]
   (g) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;
   (h) Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit;

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[1] The chapters of the report listed below have been referred also to the Second, Third and Fifth Committees, as follows:

(a)	Chapters I, VIII (section C) and X	Second, Third and Fifth Committees
(b)	Chapters II and IV	Second Committee
(c)	Chapters III, V and VIII (section A)	Second and Third Committees
(d)	Chapter VI	Third Committee
(e)	Chapter VIII (section B)	Second and Fifth Committees

[2] The General Assembly decided that the relevant paragraphs of the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/53/286) would be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 71.

[3] For sub-items (a) to (f), see "Fifth Committee", item 40.

(i) Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(j) Appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

18. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 18).[4]

19. Admission of new Members to the United Nations (item 19).

20. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (item 20):

(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;

(c) Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan;

(d) Assistance to the Palestinian people.

21. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (item 21).

22. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (item 22).

23. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (item 23).

24. Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review (item 24).

25. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (item 25).

26. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (item 26).

27. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (item 27).

28. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (item 28).

29. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (item 29).

30. United Nations reform: measures and proposals (item 30).

31. Culture of peace (item 31).

32. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (item 32).

33. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies (item 33).

34. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (item 34).

[4] The General Assembly decided to refer to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) chapters of the report of the Special Committee (A/53/23) relating to specific Territories so that the Assembly might deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole.

35. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (item 35).

36. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (item 36).

37. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (item 37).

38. Oceans and the law of the sea (item 38):

    (a) Law of the sea;

    (b) Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments.

39. Question of Palestine (item 39).

40. The situation in the Middle East (item 40).

41. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (item 41).

42. Assistance in mine clearance (item 42).

43. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (item 43).

44. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (item 44).

45. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (item 45).

46. Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (item 46):

    (a) Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[5]

    (b) Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

47. Election of the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (item 47).

48. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (item 48).

49. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (item 49).[6]

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[5] The General Assembly decided that, in the light of decision 52/424 of 12 December 1997, the ceremony for the awarding of prizes in the field of human rights in 1998 would be held on Thursday, 10 December 1998, on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in plenary meeting.

[6] The General Assembly decided to consider the item directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.

50. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (item 50).

51. Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion (item 51).

52. Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986 (item 52).

53. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (item 53).

54. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait (item 54).

55. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations (item 55).

56. Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development (item 56).

57. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte (item 57).

58. Strengthening of the United Nations system (item 58).

59. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters (item 59).

60. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (item 60).

61. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (item 61).

62. Commemorative meeting of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (item 99).[7]

63. Bethlehem 2000 (item 157).

64. World Solar Programme 1996–2005 (item 158).

65. Observer status for the Association of Caribbean States in the General Assembly (item 159).

66. Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers (item 160).

67. Observer status for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in the General Assembly (item 162).

68. Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (item 164).

[7] The General Assembly decided that, in the light of paragraph 9 of resolution 52/205 of 18 December 1997, the commemorative meeting to mark the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries would be held on Wednesday, 7 October 1998, in the morning.

69. Election of judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (item 166).

70. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 85).[8]

71. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (item 93):

(d) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership.[9]

[8] The General Assembly decided that, in the light of paragraph 2 of resolution 52/69 of 10 December 1997, the commemorative meeting to mark the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping would be held on Tuesday, 6 October 1998, in the morning.

[9] The General Assembly decided that, in the light of resolution 50/122 of 20 December 1997 and decision 52/480 of 4 June 1998, the high-level dialogue on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications would be held on Thursday, 17 September and Friday, 18 September 1998.

First Committee

1. Role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields (item 63).
2. Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States (item 64).
3. Reduction of military budgets (item 65):
   (a) Reduction of military budgets;
   (b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.
4. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (item 66).
5. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (item 67).
6. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (item 68).
7. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (item 69).
8. Prevention of an arms race in outer space (item 70).
9. General and complete disarmament (item 71):[2]
   (a) Notification of nuclear tests;
   (b) Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof: report of the Secretary-General;
   (c) Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol;
   (d) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;
   (e) Transparency in armaments;
   (f) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them;
   (g) Relationship between disarmament and development;
   (h) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;
   (i) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;
   (j) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;
   (k) Contributions towards banning anti-personnel landmines;
   (l) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;
   (m) Small arms;
   (n) Nuclear disarmament;
   (o) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

(p) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(q) Regional disarmament;

(r) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

(s) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

(t) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

10. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly (item 72):

(a) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

(b) United Nations disarmament fellowship training and advisory services;

(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(e) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons.

11. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session (item 73):

(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

(c) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

(d) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

12. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (item 74).

13. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (item 75).

14. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (item 76).

15. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (item 77).

16. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (item 78).

17. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (item 79).

18. Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee (item 80).

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

1. Effects of atomic radiation (item 81).
2. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 82).
3. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 83).
4. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 84).
5. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 85).[8]
6. Questions relating to information (item 86).
7. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 87).
8. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 88).
9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 89).
10. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapter VIII (section D)] (item 12).
11. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 90).
12. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 18).[4]
13. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (item 49).[6]

Second Committee

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I to V, VIII (sections A to C and E to H) and X] (item 12).[10]

2. Macroeconomic policy questions (item 91):

   (a) Trade and development;

   (b) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries;

   (c) Commodities;

   (d) External debt crisis and development.

3. Sectoral policy questions (item 92):

   (a) Business and development;

   (b) Industrial development cooperation.

4. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (item 93):

   (a) Implementation of and follow-up to major consensus agreements on development:

      (i) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries;

      (ii) Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

   (b) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;

   (c) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

   (d) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;[9]

   (e) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

   (f) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

   (g) Cultural development.

5. Environment and sustainable development (item 94):

   (a) Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the

[10] The chapters of the report listed below have been referred also to plenary meetings and to the Third and Fifth Committees, as follows:

(a)	Chapters I, VIII (section C) and X	Plenary meetings and Third and Fifth Committees
(b)	Chapters II and IV	Plenary meetings
(c)	Chapters III, V and VIII (section A)	Plenary meetings and Third Committee
(d)	Chapter VIII (section B)	Plenary meetings and Fifth Committee

nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(c) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

6. Operational activities for development (item 95).[11]

7. Training and research (item 96):

(a) United Nations University;

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

8. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (item 97).

9. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) (item 98).

[11] The General Assembly decided that the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women would be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 95 (Operational activities for development).

Third Committee

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I, III, V, VI, VIII (sections A, C and I) and X] (item 12).[12]
2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (item 100).
3. Crime prevention and criminal justice (item 101).
4. International drug control (item 102).
5. Advancement of women (item 103).[11]
6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (item 104).
7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (item 105).
8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children (item 106).
9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (item 107).
10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (item 108).
11. Right of peoples to self-determination (item 109).
12. Human rights questions (item 110):
    (a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
    (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;[5]
    (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
    (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
    (e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

[12] The chapters of the report listed below have been referred also to plenary meetings and to the Second and Fifth Committees, as follows:

(a)	Chapters I, VIII (section C) and X	Plenary meetings and Second and Fifth Committees
(b)	Chapters III, V and VIII (section A)	Plenary meetings and Second Committee
(c)	Chapter VI	Plenary meetings

Fifth Committee

1. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (item 111):
   (a) United Nations;
   (b) United Nations Development Programme;
   (c) United Nations Children's Fund;
   (d) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
   (e) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
   (f) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
   (g) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;
   (h) United Nations Population Fund;
   (i) United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
   (j) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;
   (k) United Nations Office for Project Services.
2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (item 112).
3. Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 (item 113).
4. Programme planning (item 114).
5. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (item 115).
6. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 116).
7. Pattern of conferences (item 117).
8. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (item 118).
9. Human resources management (item 119).
10. United Nations common system (item 120).
11. United Nations pension system (item 121).
12. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (item 122):
   (a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;
   (b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.
13. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (item 123).
14. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (item 124):
   (a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;
   (b) Other activities.

15. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (item 125).

16. Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (item 126).

17. Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (item 127).

18. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (item 128).

19. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (item 129).

20. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (item 130).

21. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (item 131).

22. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (item 132).

23. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (item 133).

24. Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (item 134).

25. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (item 135).

26. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (item 136).

27. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (item 137).

28. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (item 138).

29. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (item 139).

30. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (item 140).

31. Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (item 141).

32. Financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (item 142).

33. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (item 143):

    (a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations;

    (b) Relocation of Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232.

34. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (item 144).

35. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B (item 145).

36. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (item 161).

37. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (item 163).

38. Joint Inspection Unit (item 165).[13]

39. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I, VIII (sections B and C) and X] (item 12).[14]

40. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (item 17):[15]

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

(c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

(d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

(e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;

(f) International Civil Service Commission:

(i) Appointment of members of the Commission;

(ii) Designation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

[13] The General Assembly decided to allocate the item to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject matters assigned to other Main Committees would be also referred to those Committees.

[14] The chapters of the report listed below have been referred also to plenary meetings and to the Second and Third Committees, as follows:

(a) Chapters I, VIII (section C) and X ..... Plenary meetings, Second and Third Committees

(b) Chapter VIII (section B) ..... Plenary meetings and Second Committee

[15] For sub-items (g) to (j), see "Plenary meetings", item 17.

Sixth Committee

1. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts (item 146).
2. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives (item 147).
3. Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property (item 148).
4. United Nations Decade of International Law (item 149):
   (a) United Nations Decade of International Law;
   (b) Progress in the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law;
   (c) Draft guiding principles for international negotiations.
5. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session (item 150).
6. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-first session (item 151).
7. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (item 152).
8. Establishment of an international criminal court (item 153).
9. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (item 154).
10. Measures to eliminate international terrorism (item 155).
11. Review of the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations (item 156).

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Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment contained in the annex to that resolution, and called upon all Governments to consider signing and ratifying the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 4 February 1985. In accordance with article 27 thereof, the Convention entered into force on 26 June 1987, on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

3. In its resolution 51/86 of 12 December 1996, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Committee against Torture;[1] urged all States that had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority; invited all States ratifying or acceding to the Convention and those States that were parties to the Convention and that had not yet done so to consider joining the States parties that had already made the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention and to consider the possibility of withdrawing their reservations to articles 20; urged States parties to comply strictly with their obligations under the Convention, including their obligation to submit reports in accordance with article 19 of the Convention, in view of the high number of reports not submitted; stressed the need for regular exchanges of views between the Committee against Torture, the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other relevant United Nations mechanisms and bodies, with a view to enhancing further their effectiveness and cooperation on issues relating to torture, *inter alia*, by improving their coordination; commended the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat for the support given to States in the preparation of national reports to the Committee; urged States parties to take fully into account the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee after its consideration of their reports; urged all States parties to the Convention to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendments to articles 17 and 18 of the Convention as soon as possible;[2] and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the status of the Convention.

4. The Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-fourth session, on 17 April 1998 adopted resolution 1998/38, in which it called upon all Governments to implement fully the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading

* A/53/150.

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treatment or punishment; urged all Governments to promote the speedy and full implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23) and, in particular, of Part II, section B.5, relating to freedom from torture, in which it is stated that States should abrogate legislation leading to impunity for those responsible for grave violations of human rights such as torture and prosecute such violations, thereby providing a firm basis for the rule of law; reminded Governments that corporal punishment could amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or even to torture; stressed in particular that all allegations of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment should be promptly and impartially examined by the competent national authority, that those who encouraged, ordered, tolerated or perpetrated such acts must be held responsible and severely punished, including the officials in charge of the place of detention where the prohibited act was found to have taken place, and that national legal systems should ensure that the victims of such acts obtained redress and were awarded fair and adequate compensation and received appropriate socio-medical rehabilitation. The Commission also reminded all States that prolonged incommunicado detention might facilitate the perpetration of torture and could in itself constitute a form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; stressed that under article 4 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment acts of torture must be made an offence under domestic criminal law and that acts of torture during armed conflict were considered a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, with the perpetrators liable to prosecution and punishment; emphasized the obligation of States parties under article 10 of the Convention to ensure education and training for personnel who might be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment, and called upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in conformity with her mandate established in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to provide, at the request of Governments, advisory services in that regard, as well as technical assistance in the development, production and distribution of appropriate teaching material for the purpose. The Commission stressed in that context that States mush not punish such personnel for not obeying orders to commit acts amounting to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

5. As at 15 July 1998, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 105 States. In addition, 13 States had signed the Convention. The list of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention, as well as the dates of their signature, ratification or accession, is contained in the annex to the present report.

6. As at the same date, 39 of the States parties to the Convention, namely Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, had made the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention. In addition, two States parties, namely, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, had made the declaration provided for in article 21 only, thus bringing the total number of declarations under that article to 41. Under article 21, a State party to the Convention may declare at any time that it recognizes the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. Under article 22, a State party to the Convention may declare at any time that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by a State party of the provisions of the Convention.

7. The provisions of articles 21 and 22 entered into force on 26 June 1987 in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 21 and paragraph 8 of article 22.

8. The sixth meeting of the States parties to the Convention was convened by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 26 November 1997 to elect five members of the Committee against Torture to replace those whose terms of office were due to expire on 31 December 1997. As a result of the election, the membership of the Committee for 1998 is as follows:

Mr. Peter Thomas Burns (Canada)

Mr. Guibril Camara (Senegal)

Mr. Sayed Kassem El Masry (Egypt)

Mr. Alejandro González Poblete (Chile)

Mr. Andreas Mavromatis (Cyprus)

Mr. António Silva Henriques Gaspar (Portugal)

Mr. Bent Sorensen (Denmark)

Mr. Alexander M. Yakovlev (Russian Federation)

Mr. Yu Mengjia (China)

Mr. Bostjan M. Zupancic (Slovenia)

9. The Committee against Torture held its seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth sessions at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 11 to 22 November 1996, from 29 April to 9 May 1997, from 10 to 21 November 1997 and from 4 to 22 May 1998, respectively. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Committee submitted its annual reports,[3] covering its activities at the sessions referred to above, to the States parties and to the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/51/44).

[2] Adopted by the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on 9 September 1992 in accordance with article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention (CAT/SP/SR.4) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/52/44), ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/53/44).

Annex

List of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as at 15 July 1998

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Afghanistan	4 February 1985	1 April 1987
Albania		11 May 1994[a]
Algeria[a]	26 November 1985	12 September 1989
Antigua and Barbuda		19 July 1993[a]
Argentina[a]	4 February 1985	24 September 1986
Armenia		13 September 1993[a]
Australia[a]	10 December 1985	8 August 1989
Austria[a]	14 March 1985	29 July 1987
Azerbaijan		16 August 1996[a]
Bahrain		6 March 1998[a]
Belarus	19 December 1985	13 March 1987
Belgium	4 February 1985	
Belize		17 March 1986[a]
Benin		12 March 1992[a]
Bolivia	4 February 1985	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		6 March 1992[a]
Brazil	23 September 1985	28 September 1989
Bulgaria[a]	10 June 1986	16 December 1986
Burundi		18 February 1993[a]
Cambodia		15 October 1992[a]
Cameroon		19 December 1986[a]
Canada[a]	23 August 1985	24 June 1987
Cape Verde		4 June 1992[a]
Chad		9 June 1995[a]
Chile	23 September 1987	30 September 1988
China	12 December 1986	4 October 1988
Colombia	10 April 1985	8 December 1987
Costa Rica	4 February 1985	11 November 1993
Cote d'Ivoire		18 December 1995[a]
Croatia[a]		8 October 1991[a]
Cuba	27 January 1986	17 May 1995
Cyprus[a]	9 October 1985	18 July 1991
Czech Republic		1 January 1993[a]

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Democratic Republic of the Congo		18 March 1996[a]
Denmark[c]	4 February 1985	27 May 1987
Dominican Republic	4 February 1985	
Ecuador[c]	4 February 1985	30 March 1988
Egypt		25 June 1986[a]
El Salvador		17 June 1996[a]
Estonia		21 October 1991[a]
Ethiopia		14 March 1994[a]
Finland[c]	4 February 1985	30 August 1989
France[c]	4 February 1985	18 February 1986
Gabon	21 January 1986	
Gambia	23 October 1985	
Georgia		26 October 1994[a]
Germany	13 October 1986	1 October 1990
Greece[c]	4 February 1985	6 October 1988
Guatemala		5 January 1990[a]
Guinea	30 May 1986	10 October 1989
Guyana	25 January 1988	19 May 1988
Honduras		5 December 1996[a]
Hungary[c]	28 November 1986	15 April 1987
Iceland[c]	4 February 1985	23 October 1996
India	14 October 1997	
Indonesia	23 October 1985	
Ireland	28 September 1992	
Israel	22 October 1986	3 October 1991
Italy[c]	4 February 1985	12 January 1989
Jordan		13 November 1991[a]
Kenya		21 February 1997[a]
Kuwait		8 March 1996[a]
Kyrgyzstan		5 September 1997[a]
Latvia		14 April 1992[a]
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		16 May 1989[a]
Liechtenstein[c]	27 June 1985	2 November 1990
Lithuania		1 February 1996[a]
Luxembourg[c]	22 February 1985	29 September 1987
Malawi		11 June 1996[a]

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
Malta[a]		13 September 1990[b]
Mauritius		9 December 1992[b]
Mexico	18 March 1985	23 January 1986
Monaco[a]		6 December 1991[b]
Morocco	8 January 1986	21 June 1993
Namibia		28 November 1994[a]
Nepal		14 May 1991[a]
Netherlands[a]	4 February 1985	21 December 1988
New Zealand[a]	14 January 1986	10 December 1989
Nicaragua	15 April 1985	
Nigeria	28 July 1988	
Norway[a]	4 February 1985	9 July 1986
Panama	22 February 1985	24 August 1987
Paraguay	23 October 1989	12 March 1990
Peru	29 May 1985	7 July 1988
Philippines		18 June 1986[b]
Poland[a]	13 January 1986	26 July 1989
Portugal[a]	4 February 1985	9 February 1989
Republic of Korea		9 January 1995[b]
Republic of Moldova		28 November 1995[b]
Romania		18 December 1990[b]
Russian Federation[a]	10 December 1985	3 March 1987
Saudi Arabia		22 September 1997[b]
Senegal[a]	4 February 1985	21 August 1986
Seychelles		5 May 1992[b]
Sierra Leone	18 March 1985	
Slovakia[a]		29 May 1993[b]
Slovenia[a]		16 July 1993[b]
Somalia		24 January 1990[b]
South Africa	29 January 1993	
Spain[a]	4 February 1985	21 October 1987
Sri Lanka		3 January 1994[b]
Sudan	4 June 1986	
Sweden[a]	4 February 1985	8 January 1986
Switzerland[a]	4 February 1985	2 December 1986
Tajikistan		11 January 1995[b]

State	*Date of signature*	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession*
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		12 December 1994[c]
Togo[a]	25 March 1987	18 November 1987
Tunisia[a]	26 August 1987	23 September 1988
Turkey[a]	25 January 1988	2 August 1988
Uganda		3 November 1986[b]
Ukraine	27 February 1986	24 February 1987
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[d]	15 March 1985	8 December 1988
United States of America[a]	18 April 1988	21 October 1994
Uruguay[a]	4 February 1985	24 October 1986
Uzbekistan		28 September 1995[b]
Venezuela[a]	15 February 1985	29 July 1991
Yemen		5 November 1991[b]
Yugoslavia[a]	18 April 1989	10 September 1991

Notes

[a] Made the declaration under articles 21 and 22 of the Convention

[b] Accession

[c] Succession

[d] Made the declaration under article 21 of the Convention